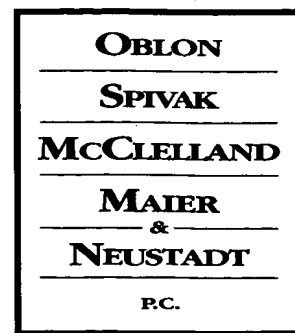




Docket No.: 242579US0CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/687,709  
Applicants: Shigeru KAWAHARA, et al.  
Filing Date: October 20, 2003  
For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING N-FORMYLAMINO  
ACID AND USE THEREOF  
Group Art Unit: 1621  
Examiner: Puttlitz, K.J.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**Response to Restriction Requirement**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO.: 242579US0CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Shigeru KAWAHARA, et al.

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1621

SERIAL NO.: 10/687,709

:

FILED: OCTOBER 20, 2003

: EXAMINER: PUTTLITZ, K. J.

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING N-FORMYLAMINO ACID AND USE THEREOF

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated June 15, 2004, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group IV, Claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 26, 27, and 34, for further prosecution.

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction in the present application as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1, 10, 32 and 33, drawn to preparation of N-formyl aspartic acid;
- Group II: Claims 2 and 11, drawn to preparation of aspartame;
- Group III: Claims 3, 4, and 31, drawn to preparation of N-formyl- $\alpha$ -L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester;
- Group IV: Claims 5, 6, 14, 15, 26, 27, 34, drawn to preparing L- and/or D-phenylalanine methyl ester adduct of N-formyl- $\alpha$ -L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester by enzyme condensation;
- Group V: Claims 7, 9, 16, 18, 24, 25, 28, 30, drawn to preparing aspartame requiring an enzyme condensation or depending from claims requiring an enzyme condensation; and